THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no proposal to set up New Railway Zone at Salem in Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SAIL plant at Bokaro

†2755, SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the expansion plan of the steel plant of SAIL located at Bokaro in Jharkhand;

(b) the target set for the completion of this plan; and

(c) the reasons for the delay, if any, in implementation of this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) SAIL Board has approved 'in-principle' the expansion plan of Bokaro Steel Plant in December, 2006 and tendering activities for various packages of the expansion plan are in progress.

(b) The expansion plan is planned to be completed by 2010 progressively.

(c) At present, there is no delay in implementation of this plan.

Lease of CIOM to SAIL

2756. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispute regarding the renewal of the lease of Chiria Iron Ore Mine to SAIL is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the lease is renewed at an early date; and

(d) by when the lease is likely to be renewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a), (b) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Jharkhand had rejected the proposal for renewal of 3 out of 6 mining leases of Chiria Iron Ore mine in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and later the matter went to the Jharkhand High Court and the case is presently *sub-judice*.

(c) Continuous efforts are being made by the Ministry of Steel to resolve the issues and the matter has been taken up at various levels including the Prime Minister's Office also. A dialogue is also under way with the State Government for ensuring that Steel Authority of India Limited's iron ore requirements from Chiria are met.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.